

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1, 4-15, 17-21 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, and 15 have been amended to incorporate the allowable features into the independent claims. Claims 2, 3, and 16 have been canceled. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 3-7 and 16-21 because they are dependent upon a rejected independent claim. Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to incorporate all of the allowable features of claim 3. Claims 4 and 7 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Independent claim 15 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 16. Claims 17-21 have been amended to depend from claim 15. Claims 2, 3, and 16 have been canceled. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the objection to the claims 4-7 and 17-21 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 2, and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,957,071 to Holur et al. (hereinafter “Holur”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,006,091 to Lupien (hereinafter “Lupien”).

The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, all of the features of claim 3 have been added to independent claims 1 and 11 and claim 3 has been canceled.

Rejected claims 8-10 and 12-14 are dependent upon claims 1 and 11, respectively, which the Applicants believe are allowable over the cited prior art of record for the same reasons provided above.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being patentable over Holur in view of Lupien and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,564,067 to Agin (hereinafter “Agin”). The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, all of the features of claim 16 have been added to independent claim 15 and claim 16 has been canceled.

Applicant: Stern-Berkowitz et al.
Application No.: 10/810,127


Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1, 4-15, and 17-21 is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Stern-Berkowitz et al.

By 
Steven J. Gelman
Registration No. 41,034

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.
United Plaza, Suite 1600
30 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-6400
Facsimile: (215) 568-6499

SJG/WTM/slp